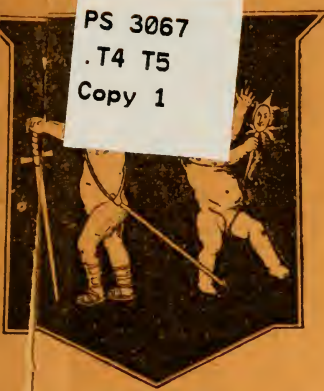


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DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

JOHN FRENCH *Nouveau riche.*
MRS. CHURCHILL *A young widow.*
MARIE *Mrs. Churchill's maid.*

Costumes modern and appropriate.

THAT PATRICK!

SCENE. — MRS. CHURCHILL'S *drawing-room*. MARIE *discovered arranging flowers in vase*.

MARIE. Flowers! flowers! always flowers! The gardener of Mr. French, he give me flowers; and the coachman across the street, he give me flowers; and the milkman, he leave them on the back steps; and the postman, he throw them over the hedge. If only now the one or the other would bring me a head of lettuce, or a good cabbage, — ach! Sauer-kraut — die liebe sauer-kraut! das liebe Vaterland! (*Sighs*.) The butcher, however, he please me; “Marie, I bring you a garland,” say he — “make your eyes to!” and when I open my eyes, there is a whole string of sausages round my neck. Ach! — der ist ein Mann! And the dairyman, he bring fresh eggs. However, my mistress, die gnädige Frau, she like the flowers, and to her I gives them. (*Through window appears a bunch of flowers on the end of a pitchfork. MARIE does not notice till prong slightly pricks her shoulder.*) Ach, Himmel! (*Sees flowers.*) Again flowers? That Patrick! Roses — it is the gardener of Mr. French, our neighbor. So shy is that Patrick! Six bouquets has he give me in six days, and always thus, at the end of a pitchfork. (*Takes roses. Pitchfork is withdrawn.*) Alas! Where another vase? — all full!

(*Enter MRS. CHURCHILL.*)

MRS. C. Good morning, Marie!

MARIE. Good morning, madame!

MRS. C. How gay we are with flowers! More tributes from your admirers? They will help us to forget that we have no breakfast this morning.

MARIE. Breakfast? One instant, gnädige Frau!
(*Exit.*)

MRS. C. Poor little thing! Or, rather — poor me! One of the hardest things about my reverses is that I shall have to part with her. It will be lonely in this great tumble-down house without her. She has been with me six years now. But with all these ardent admirers, she will be better taken care of than I am.

(*Re-enter MARIE with tray, which she places before MRS. C.*)

MARIE. Eggs! — fruit! — tea! — bread! — butter! *Guten appetit — gnädige Frau!*

MRS. C. But, child, where did all this come from?

MARIE. Madame will commence with a few grapes?

MRS. C. I thought you told me there was not a scrap in the house!

MARIE. The egg! — shall I break it for madame?

MRS. C. Marie, I insist on an explanation! I have told you not to run up bills.

MARIE. Madame need have no fear. As for the eggs and cream, the dairyman, he is a friend of mine.

MRS. C. But the tea?

MARIE. The tea? Oh, the grocer, he is a very good friend of mine.

MRS. C. And the bread?

MARIE. That baker boy, he always think he make such nice bread — he would have me try it.

MRS. C. And these exquisite hot-house grapes?

MARIE. Oh, the gardener of Mr. Sutton, he pass by this morning! Has madame no appetite?

MRS. C. (*rising*). Marie, this is too much! That I should be living on the bounty of your friends! Take it away! I shall not touch a mouthful!

MARIE (*opening her eyes innocently*). Oh, madame! what would you? The men, if they will give me eggs, and flowers, and tea — is it my fault?

MRS. C. (*severely*). But, Marie, don't you know it's very wrong to encourage so many men at one time?

MARIE. Encourage? It is they that have the courage — I do nothing! I but says, "Thank you!"

MRS. C. (*laughing*). Well, I see it's of no use! For this once, especially as I'm half faint with hunger, I will eat your breakfast. But mind, Marie, it is never to happen again! I expect a remittance this evening. I have been speaking to Mrs. James about you, Marie, and as I shall no longer be able to keep you in my service —

MARIE. What! Madame will marry again?

MRS. C. Marry? What has put that into your head?

MARIE. The neighbor of madame, Mr. French, he has had that in his head for a long time. He is very rich. His father make a fortune — a large fortune.

MRS. C. (*taking up roses*). But these are the very prettiest flowers of them all. Where did they come from?

MARIE. Oh, a friend of mine — but there is no vase. Madame will wear them — they suit her complexion.

MRS. C. Wear those tender tokens? No, indeed! you shall wear them yourself.

MARIE. If madame would but do me the honor!

MRS. C. I'm too old and grave for such vanities, Marie.

MARIE. Oh! gnädige Frau! (*She pins roses on MRS. C.'s dress.*)

MRS. C. Well, I will wear them for your sake. What I should have done without you I do not know! (*Bell heard without.*) What! a caller so early! I must run and change my breakfast-cap. (*Exit.*)

(*Exit MARIE with tray. Leaves fruit. Re-enter MARIE, carrying bundle of onions.*)

MARIE. Ach! But they smell good! I will make a nice stew. That was the gardener of Mr. Baker that leave them — no visitor for my mistress. These American men! they very good to me. People say men is so bad, so selfish, so cruel. I do not find it. (*Proceeds to dust room. Song, if desired. After song, pitchfork appears at window with note on prong. MARIE perceives it.*) Ach! again that Patrick! (*Takes note.*) Ach! a poetry! (*Pitchfork withdrawn. Reads:*)

“The roses I send thee,
Oh, do they offend thee?
Ah! cruel one, bend thee,
And look on my woe!”

Ach, Himmel! wie schön! How beautiful! How splendid! How — nice! That Patrick — he write poetry. No one ever write poetry to me before. (*Looks pensive, and sighs.*) Now, if my mistress marry the master of Patrick! — (*Bell without.*) Ach, it rings! (*Exit.*)

(*Enter FRENCH and MARIE. Exit MARIE.*)

FRENCH. Fine old house! Pity it's so out of repair! No wonder that Mrs. Churchill is proud of it and of her family. H'm! My paternal mansion! Still, she accepts my roses! What a handsome woman she is! Those eyes of hers — whenever she looks at me, I know she is thinking,

"Your father, sir, was a pedler!" Still, she accepts my roses! At least, she doesn't refuse them. She never thanks me; but then, perhaps, that's all the better. There's a good deal in silence.

(Enter MARIE.)

MARIE. Madame will appear soon. Madame presents her compliments, and hopes that Mr. French will be seated. The ball Madame attend last night, and the attention she receive, and all, have tire Madame. Madame sleep late.

FRENCH. Attention! I know it! all the swells admire her!

MARIE. Will Mr. French not graciously refresh himself with a few grapes. (*Presents grapes.*)

FRENCH (*waving them off*). Thanks, no.

MARIE. Mr. French will find them excellent.

FRENCH. No, thank you!

MARIE. The grapes of Mr. Sutton; they are famed through the country.

FRENCH. Sutton? What! How! These grapes came from Mr. Sutton?

MARIE. From the hot-house of Mr. Sutton. (*Places them by him on the table.*)

FRENCH (*aside*). So! Sutton's paying court, is he? H'm! I always said she was a handsome woman. H'm! Grapes from Sutton's hot-house!

MARIE. But the peaches of Mr. Belmont! they, too, are fine. (*Places peaches by grapes.*)

FRENCH. Belmont! Belmont! What Belmont? Not that hulking old —

MARIE. Mr. Belmont, of Belmont Park. Will Mr. French not try a peach?

FRENCH (*aside*). Why, he's the stingiest old curmudgeon in the district. They say his own mother has never tasted a peach of his raising. So Belmont sends Mrs. Churchill peaches, does he?

MARIE. But yet it is flowers that are most beautiful, after all. These lilies, now. Mr. French is a judge of lilies. (*Places dish of lilies on table.*)

FRENCH. Judge of lilies? I hate lilies. (*Aside.*) I always said there was not a woman in America who could hold a candle to her. (*Aloud.*) Lilies, h'm! These grew on Mrs. Churchill's place, I presume.

MARIE. Oh, no, sir.

FRENCH. No? H'm! (*Aside.*) Close little piece! I must find out where those lilies came from. I know by her reticence this is the man. (*Takes out coin and slipping it*

into hand.) Oh, by the way, where did you say these lilies grew?

MARIE. I said not, sir.

FRENCH (*violently*). The deuce you didn't! (*Giving another coin.*) Don't you think you could remember?

MARIE (*meditatively*). Lilies? Come they from Mr. Graves? No, it is these tuberoses that come from Mr. Graves. (*Adds vase of tuberoses to row on table.*) Mr. Forrest, perhaps. Ach, but I am stupid! It was these chrysanthemums that came from the place of Mr. Forrest. (*Adds chrysanthemums to row.*) And these orange-blossoms!

FRENCH (*starting*). Orange-blossoms.

MARIE (*adding them to row*). Orange-blossoms.

FRENCH. No, not even in Italy, in Rome, did I ever see a pair of eyes like Mrs. Churchill's! I always said so. And how she can put up with the devotion of these Suttons and Belmonts and Graveses! But of course their fathers were not pedlers. Where the dickens can she have stowed my roses? I told Patrick to deliver them into her own hands. She probably threw them out of the window. I know she threw them out of the window. She can't forget that my father was a pedler. She's — Oh! she comes! Heavens and earth! — she didn't throw them out of the window; she's wearing them!

(*Enter MRS. CHURCHILL. Exit MARIE.*)

MRS. C. Good morning, Mr. French; pardon me for keeping you so long.

FRENCH (*confused*). Not at all; it only seemed a second. I — I mean it seemed a whole year. It seemed — I —

MRS. C. Don't stand. Why, what a strange arrangement Marie has made of the flowers. With your permission, I will rearrange them. But, first, will you not take a peach?

FRENCH. Oh, no, I thank you.

MRS. C. They are very sweet, and were given to me by the most generous-hearted person in the world.

FRENCH (*aside*). The dickens! Old Belmont!

MRS. C. As for these grapes, they fairly melt in one's mouth.

FRENCH (*aside*). Sutton's grapes!

MRS. C. Where do you think these tuberoses would look best? Here, against this deep red background?

FRENCH. Yes, certainly; yes. (*Aside.*) She gives them

the place of honor! Forrest, was it, who sent the tuberose? Mr. Graves? But, still, she is wearing my roses.

MRS. C. And the chrysanthemums I will put here.

FRENCH. By all means. (*Aside.*) How carefully she lifts them. Forrest's chrysanthemums. I am convinced it's Forrest!

MRS. C. And these lilies — these lovely lilies —

FRENCH. Those confounded —

MRS. C. I beg your pardon!

FRENCH. As you say, — those lovely lilies —

MRS. C. I will put a little in the shadow. So.

FRENCH. Yes — by all means in the shadow. (*Aside.*) She kissed them — I swear I saw her kiss them when she was pretending to smell them!

MRS. C. And the orange-blossoms —

FRENCH. There is no place left for the orange-blossoms; you will have to wear them.

MRS. C. Wear them! oh, no! I like my roses better. You had not noticed my beautiful roses?

FRENCH. Beautiful? You honor them too much!

MRS. C. But they *are* very beautiful.

FRENCH (*charmed*). Mere weeds!

MRS. C. (*hotly*). I never saw more exquisite roses.

FRENCH. Weeds, Mrs. Churchill, mere weeds.

MRS. C. Really, sir, your taste in flowers is most extraordinary. I tell you they are exquisite and rare roses, and were given me by a dear friend.

FRENCH. Ah!

MRS. C. It is true I do not often wear flowers, but, for the sake of my friend, I put them on.

FRENCH. Oh!

MRS. C. Some people might condemn me for speaking so frankly; but, though the Churchills have always been proud of their family, I for one make no distinctions of rank. In whatever grade of life I find a true and loyal heart, I press it to my own.

FRENCH (*aside*). How my heart beats. She doesn't leave me much to say, though!

MRS. C. (*excitedly*). Yes, wherever I find a loyal heart I clasp it to my own. Away with all distinctions of rank. The rank is but the guinea's stamp!

FRENCH (*seizing her hand*). Madame, you express the inmost feelings of my soul.

MRS. C. Sir!

FRENCH. I understand you. I appreciate your delicate consideration of my scruples —

MRS. C. The man is mad!

FRENCH. Your womanly frankness merely makes me, if possible —

MRS. C. You will leave the house.

FRENCH. And to see you wearing my roses —

MRS. C. Your roses!

FRENCH. Every one of which was plucked and kissed by my own hands — lips — no, plucked by my hands, and kissed by my lips —

MRS. C. (*ringing*). There is some strange mistake here. (*Enter MARIE.*) Marie, where did these flowers come from?

MARIE. From the end of a pitchfork, madame.

MRS. C. } A pitchfork!

FRENCH. }

MARIE. Through the window!

MRS. C. } Through the window!

FRENCH. }

FRENCH. And who, pray, was at the other end of the pitchfork?

MARIE. That Patrick! It is the way he have of give me flowers. So shy is he.

FRENCH. Bringing *you* flowers! The flowers were for your mistress. I told Patrick to bring them this very morning. (*To MRS. C.*) Ah, I see! So it's for Patrick's sake you are wearing these flowers, and *he* is the loyal heart in a lowly rank of life —

MRS. C. Mr. French!

MARIE. Ah, madame! take my flowers, my sausages, my fresh eggs — anything — but leave me my Patrick!

(*Pitchfork appears at window, with ring on one of its prongs. All run toward it. FRENCH seizes it.*)

MARIE. Ach, mein Herr! for me — that is for me!

FRENCH (*presenting it to MRS. CHURCHILL*). Permit me, madame, to offer you this tribute from the lowly heart you spoke of but now.

MRS. C. I know nothing of that ring.

MARIE. Ach, that Patrick! Madame, take my all, but leave me the ring — and my Patrick!

FRENCH (*examining ring*). By Jupiter! this ring! By Jove! this is my ring — the very ring I bought yesterday, meaning to ask you, — meaning to present, — I missed it out of my waistcoat pocket. I see it all! Patrick found it, and offers himself to you.

MARIE. No — to me, to me! Look! these roses; they, too, are my — they comes from Patrick! I give them to my

mistress, and behold (*taking out verses*), also, poetry from Patrick!

“The roses I send thee,
Oh, do they offend thee?
Ah! cruel one, bend thee,
And look on my woe!”

FRENCH (*snatching paper*). My own verses! They were in my waistcoat with the ring. I missed them, too.

MARIE. Ach! That Patrick!

FRENCH. Madame, I do not know what to say to you. Your acceptance of the roses which for the last two months I have been sending gave me courage to hope —

MRS. C. Roses! I never had the chance to accept. I never received a rose from you!

FRENCH. But I sent them by Patrick. Marie, what does all this mean? You and Patrick —

MARIE. Ach! That Patrick!

MRS. C. So you have been keeping the roses yourself!

MARIE. Madame, a thousand pardons. He say nothing — that Patrick! — so shy is he. He present the roses through the window, on the end of garden fork. How do I know? The men, they give me so many things. I thought —

MRS. C. (*laughing*). There, Marie, take your Patrick, — and you, Mr. French, your roses. (*Gives roses.*)

FRENCH. And leave you to wear Mr. Forrest's chrysanthemums or Mr. Graves' tuberose!

MRS. C. You labor under some strange mistake. These flowers belong —

MARIE. H'st! madame. It is best he think them your lovers'!

MRS. C. These flowers and this fruit were sent to Marie by various gardeners and coachmen of her acquaintance.

MARIE. Ach, madame! Mein Herr, believe her not! Behold, as you send her roses through Patrick, they send her lilies and grapes through me. Do you not see? It is as plain as the ears on a rabbit. (*Aside.*) If Patrick hear I take all these things, he never speak to me again.

MRS. C. But, Marie, if you cared for Patrick all the time, why did you give me his flowers?

MARIE. Ach, madame! if I give you all the other's flowers, and only not Patrick's, you would know that I — that I — that —

MRS. C. Ah, I see! you are a regular woman, Marie.

(MARIE *retires.*)

FRENCH. May I not hope that you will at least take back these roses?

MRS. C. Mr. French, I —

FRENCH. I say nothing about the — verses — and the — the —

MRS. C. Oh, no! On no account say anything about the verses and the — the —

FRENCH. I picked them for you myself. I know it is a great liberty. I — (MRS. C. *takes the roses.*)

FRENCH (*emboldened*). And perhaps later we may talk about the verses and the — the —

MRS. C. But for the present we shall do better to confine ourselves to

MARIE (*at window*). That Patrick!

MRS. C. } (*running to window*). Yes, that Patrick

FRENCH. }

CURTAIN.

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CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 1.

- | | |
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| <p>At the Soldiers' Graves.
Battle-Hymn.
"Boofer Lady," The.
Bricklayers, The.
Bumpkin's Courtship, The.
Charles Sumner.
"Curfew must not ring To-night."
Closet Scene, The. ("Hamlet.")
Defiance of Harold the Dauntless.
Der Drummer.
Deutsch Maud Muller, The.
Doorstep, The.
Factory-girl's Diary, The.
Farmer Bent's Sheep-washing.
Godiva.
"Good and Better."
Happiest Couple, The. (From the
"School for Scandal.")
Happy Life, The.
Hans Breitmann's Party.
Hour of Prayer, The.
How Terry saved his Bacon.
How He saved St. Michael's.
In the Tunnel.
Jakie ou Watermelon-pickle.
Jester's Sermon, The.
"Jones."</p> | <p>Mahmoud.
Mistletoe-Bough, The.
Mr. Caudle and his Second Wife.
Mr. O'Gallagher's Three Roads to Learning.
Nobody There.
Old Age.
Old Farmer Gray gets Photographed.
Old Methodist's Testimony, The.
Overthrow of Belshazzar.
Puzzled Census-Taker, The.
Popping the Question.
Red Jacket, The.
Rob Roy MacGregor.
Samson.
Senator's Pledge, The.
Showman's Courtship, The.
Squire's Story, The.
Story of the Bad Little Boy who didn't come to Grief, The.
Story of the Faithful Soul, The.
Stranger in the pew, A.
Tauler.
Voices at the Throne, The.
Whistler, The.
Yankee and the Dutchman's Dog, The.</p> |
|---|--|

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 2.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Address of Spottycus.
Baby Atlas.
Baby's Soliloquy, A.
Beauty of Youth, The.
Biddy's Troubles.
Bobolink, The.
Broken Pitcher, The.
By the Alma River.
Calling a Boy in the Morning.
Cooking and Courting.
Curing a Cold.
Double Sacrifice, The.
Farm-yard Song.
Fortune-Hunter, The.
Goin' Home To-day.
Harry and I.
In the Bottom Drawer.
Last Ride, The.
Learned Negro, The.
Little Puzzler, The.
Man with a Cold in his Head, The.
Merchant of Venice, Trial Scene.
Modest Cousin, The.
Militia General, A.
"Nearer, my God, to Thee."</p> | <p>Old Ways and the New, The.
Opening of the Piano, The.
Our Visitor, and What He came for.
Over the River.
Paddock Elms, The.
Pickwickians on Ice, The.
Picture, A.
Press On.
Possession.
Quaker Meeting, The.
Queen Mab.
Rescue, The.
Shadow on the Wall, The.
Short Sermon, A.
Sisters, The.
Sunday Morning.
There is no Death.
Tobe's Monument.
Toothache.
Tragical Tale of the Tropics, A.
Traveller's Evening Song, A.
Two Anchors, The.
Two Irish Idyls.
What's the Matter with that Nose?
Workers and Thinkers.</p> |
|--|---|

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 3.

<p>Appeal in Behalf of American Liberty. Ambition. Auction Mad. Aurelia's Unfortunate Young Man. Ballad of the Oysterman, The. Bob Cratchit's Christmas-Dinner. Bone and Sinew and Brain. Bunker Hill. Burial of the Dane, The. Church of the Best Licks, The. Countess and the Serf, The. Deck-Hand and the Mule, The. Evils of Ignorance, The. First Snow-fall, The. Flower-mission, Junior, The. For Love. Fra Giacomo. How Persimmons took Cah ob der Baby. Jonesville Singin' Quire, The. Last Tilt, The. Lay of Real Life, A. Law of Kindness, The. Losses. Mad Luce. Minute-men of '75, The.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes. Mr. Stiver's Horse. Ode. Old Foggy Man, The. Pat and the Oysters. Recantation of Galileo, The. Roast Pig. A Bit of Lamb. Roman Soldier, The. Riding down. Schneider's Tomatoes. School of Reform, Scenes from the. Similia Similibus. Singer, The. Solemn Book-Agent, The. Sons of New England, The. Speech of the Hon. Perverse Peabody on the Acquisition of Cuba. Temperance. Twilight. Two Loves and a Life. Two Births. Uncle Reuben's Baptism, Victories of Peace, The. Wedding-Fee, The. Wolves, The. What the Old Man said.</p>
--	---

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 4.

<p>Battle Flag of Sigurd, The. "Business" in Mississippi. Bell of Atri, The. Cane-bottomed Chair, The. Cobbler's Secret, The. Cuddle Doon. Custer's Last Charge. Daddy Worthless. Decoration. Dignity of Labor, The. Elder Sniffle's Courtship. Goin' Somewhere. Grandfather. He Giveth His Beloved Sleep. Hot Roasted Chestnut, The. House-top Saint, The. "Hunchback," Scene from the. Indian's Claim, The. Joan of Arc. Leedle Yawcob Strauss. Little Black-eyed Rebel, The. Little Hero, The. Little Shoe, A. Lost Cats, The. Mary Maloney's Philosophy.</p>	<p>Minot's Ledge. Mother's Fool. Mr. O'Hoolahan's Mistake. Mr. Watkins celebrates. My Neighbor's Baby. Palmetto and the Pine, The. Pip's Fight. Post-Boy, The. Pride of Battery B, The. "Palace o' the King, The." Paper don't Say, The. Penny ye meant to gi'e, The. Question, A. Robert of Lincoln. Song of the Dying, The. St. John the Aged. Tramp, The. Tom. Two Portraits. Village Sewing Society, The. Way Astors are Made, The. What is a Minority? Widder Green's Last Words. William Tell. Zenobia's Defence.</p>
---	--

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 5.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A Blessing on the Dance.
A Charge with Prince Rupert.
A Mysterious Disappearance.
Art-Matters in Indiana.
A Rhine Legend.
A Watch that "Wanted Cleaning."
An Exciting Contest.
An Indignation-Meeting.
An Irish Wake.
Ballad of a Baker.
Ballad of Constance.
Ballad of Ronald Clare.
Between the Lines.
Burdock's Goat.
Butterwick's Weakness.
Dot Baby off Mine.
Edith helps Things along.
Failed.
Faithful Little Peter.
Five.
From the Sublime to the Ridiculous.
Good-By.
"If We Knew."
Last Redoubt.
Mollie, or Sadie?</p> | <p>Noble Revenge.
Not Dead, but Risen.
"One of the Boys."
Scene from "London Assurance."
Scene from "The Marble Heart."
Sideways.
Somebody's Mother.
Something Spilt.
Tact and Talent.
The Amateur Spelling-Match.
The Blue and Gray.
The Bridge.
The Canteen.
The Dead Doll.
The Flood and the Ark.
The Honest Deacon.
The Kaiser's Feast.
The Little Shoes did it.
The Scotchman at the Play.
The Seven Ages.
The Two Glasses.
Tired Mothers.
Uncle Remus's Revival Hymn.
Whistling in Heaven.
Why Bidy and Pat got Married.</p> |
|---|--|
-

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 6.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A Disturbance in Church.
A Disturbed Parent.
A Christmas Carol.
A Miracle.
"A Sweeter Revenge."
An Irish Love-Letter.
Behind Time.
Blind Ned.
Cavalry Charge, The.
Clerical Wit.
"Conquered at Last."
Count Eberhard's Last Foray.
Deaf and Dumb.
Der Shoemaker's Poy.
Down with the Heathen Chinees!
Fight at Lookout.
Fireman's Prayer.
Greeley's Ride.
Great Future.
Immortality.
Joe's Bespeak.
John Chinaman's Protest.
Jim Lane's Last Message.
Mr. Coville proves Mathematics.
Nationality.</p> | <p>One Touch of Nature.
Paddy O'Rafter.
Putty and Varnish.
Reserved Power.
Ship-Boy's Letter.
Sweet Singer of Michigan.
Tacking Shp off Shore.
Tammy's Prize.
Talk about Shooting.
Ten Years after.
The Benediction.
The Changed Cross.
The Fan Drill.
The Farmer's Story.
The Fountain of Youth.
The King's Kiss.
The Palmer's Vision.
The Sergeant of the Fiftieth.
The Well-Digger.
"Them Yankee Blankits."
They Met.
Virginus to the Roman Army.
Warning to Woman.
Weaving the Web.
Widow Stebbins on Homœopathy.</p> |
|---|---|

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 7.

<p> A College Widow. A Free Seat. A Humorous Dare-Devil. All's Well that ends Well. A London Bee Story. A Modern Heroine. A Modern Sermon. A Reminiscence. A Royal Princess. Ave Maria. Civil War. Creeds of the Bells. "Dashing Rod," Trooper. Down Hill with the Brakes off. Drawing Water. Family Portraits. Fool's Prayer. Greatest Walk on Record. Hannibal at the Altar. "He giveth His Beloved Sleep." Hohenlinden. How Neighbor Wilkins got Religion. How Randa went over the River. Irish Boy and Priest. Jimmy Butler and the Owl. Jim Wolfe and the Cats. </p>	<p> Last Hymn. Left Alone at Eighty. Maud's Misery. National Game. New Dixie. On the Channel-Boat. Orient Yourself. Paddle Your Own Canoe. Patriot Spy. Pledge to the Dead. Pomological Society. Rhymes at Random. San Benito. St. Leon's Toast. That Calf. The Carpenter's Wooling, and the Sequel. The Dead Student. The Ladies. The Pin. The Retort. The Singers' Alms. This Side and That. Two Fishers. Uncle Mellick dines with his Master. </p>
---	--

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 8.

<p> A Brick. A Colored Debating Society. Along the Line. A New Version of the Parable of the Virgins. An Evangel. Annie's Ticket. Apples — A Comedy. A Sermon for the Sisters. A Thirsty Boy. Aunt Phillis's Guest. Ballad of the Bell-Tower. "Christianos ad Leones!" City Man and Setting Hen. Daisy's Faith. De 'Sp'erience ob Reb'rend Quacko Strong. Defence of Lucknow. Dutch Security. Fast Mail. Father William. From One Standpoint. Girl of the Crisis. Grave of the Greyhound. Indian Warrior's Defence. Labor is Worship. </p>	<p> Lanty Leary. Last of the Sarpints. Legend of the White Hand. London Zoölogical Gardens. Masked Batteries. Miss Edith's Modest Request. Mrs. Brown at the Play. Old Grimes. People will laugh. Peril of the Mines. Parody on "Father William." Patter of the Shingle. Paul Clifford's Defence. Shiftless Neighbor Ball. Song of the Mystic. The Baron's Last Banquet. The Captive. The Dilemma. The Divorce Feast. The Farmer and the Barrister. The Man with a Bear. The Story of the Tiles. The Outlaw's Yarn. The Rich Man and the Poor Man. Two Dreams. Yankee Courtship. </p>
---	---

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 9.

Antoinette.	Make the Best of Every Thing.
Antony to Cleopatra.	Marked Grave, The.
Awfully Lovely Philosophy.	Marriage of Santa Claus, The.
Calif, The.	Mice at Play.
Check.	No Color Line in Heaven.
Claribel's Prayer.	Night Watch.
Cleopatra Dying.	Old Man's Dreams, An.
Dagger Scene from "The Wife,"	One-legged Goose, The.
The.	Owl Critic, The.
Dandy Fifth, The.	"Papa says so too."
Don Squixet's Ghost.	Poetry of Iron, The.
Gingerbread.	Right must win, The.
Hannah.	Reviving de Sinners.
"He and She."	Selling the Farm.
Hero Woman, The.	Setting a Hen.
Holly Branch, The.	She would be a Mason.
Jan Steener's Ride.	Similar Case, A.
Johnny on Snakes.	Sleep, The.
King's Bell, The.	Song of the North, The.
Legend of Saint Barbara, The.	Spinning-wheel, The.
Legend of the Organ-BUILDER.	Time.
Life in Death.	Tomato, The.
Little Girl's Song, The.	Tramp of Shiloh, The.
Lookout Mountain.	Very Naughty Little Girl's Views.
Loves of Luciuda.	Widow of Nain, The.
Man Wich didn't drink Wotter, The.	

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 10.

Autumn Leaves.	No Yearning for the Beautiful.
Autumn Thoughts.	"Ole Marster's" Christmas.
Baffled Book-Agent, The.	Our Baby.
Banker and the Cobbler, The.	Parting Lovers, The.
Brudder Johnson on 'Lectricity.	Penitent, A.
Building and Being.	Purpose, A.
Carcassonne.	Round of Life, The.
Chain of Gold, The.	Ramon.
Charge of the Heavy Brigade.	Rather Embarrassing.
Christmas Elegy, A.	Ravenswood's Oath.
Clown's Baby, The.	Robert Emmett's Last Speech.
Confession, The.	Saving Mother.
Conversion of Col. Quagg.	Scene from "Mary Stuart."
Court Lady, A.	Serenade, The.
Cruise of the "Monitor," The.	Sharpshooter's Miss, The.
Death of the Old Wife.	Sooner or Later.
Death of Steerforth.	Story of a Stowaway, The.
Garfield.	Squire Houston's Marriage Ceremony
Hark!	The Way Rube Hoffenstein sells.
How the Colonel took It.	This means You, Girls.
Intensely Utter.	Tickled All Oafer.
Jackdaw of Rheims, The.	Union of Blue and Gray.
Mate of the "Betsy Jane," The.	Widow to Her Son, The.
Nebuehadnezzah.	Wild Weather Outside.
No Time like the Old Time.	Young Grimes.

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 11.

<p>Abraham Lincoln and the Poor Woman. Big Ben Bolton. Bivouac of the Dead, The. Captain's Tale, The. Cataract of Lodore, The. Charge at Valley Maloy, The. Child's Evening Prayer, The. Clear Bargain, A. Closing Scene, The. Convent Robbing. Countersign was "Mary," The. Crutch in the Corner. Drifted Out to Sea. "Fall In." For Life and Death. Glimpse of Death, A. Going towards Sundown. Garibaldi and His Companions. Kelly's Ferry. Last upon the Roll. Leedle Yawcob Strauss: What He says. Magnificent Poverty. Mr. Murphy explains His Son's Conduct. Mysterious Rappings.</p>	<p>Nearer Home. No Precedent. Old Man goes to Town, The. O'thello. "Mebbe," Joe's True Feesh Story. Paddy's Metamorphosis. Pat's Bondsman. Pericles to the People. "Picciola." Red O'Neil, The. Reflections on the Needle. Roland Gray. Second Review of the Grand Army Silver Cup, The. Snow-storm, The. Speculation. Suckers on de Corn. "Treadwater Jim." Unforgotten Foe, The. Variegated Dogs. Virginny. Washee, Washee. What saved the Union. Wonderful Tar Baby Story, The. Wreck of the White Ship. Yawcob Strauss.</p>
---	--

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 12.

<p>Æsthetic Housekeeper, The. Asking the Gov'nor. Asleep at the Switch. Awkward. Bad Mix, A. Boys Who Never got Home, The. Concurrent Testimony. Cruise of the "Nancy Jane," The. Discontented Pendulum, The. Doctor's Wedding, The. Enoch of Calaveras, The. Fire! Fire! Fire-Worshippers, The. Funny Small Boy, The. Good-by, Proud World. How Dennis took the Pledge. How He Made It. How Tim's Prayer was answered. House that Jack built, The. Ideal of Woman, An. I have drank my Last Glass, Boys. Jack at All Trades, A. Judge Pitman's Watch. Katie's Answer. Little Presbyterian Maid, The. Little Rocket's Christmas</p>	<p>Lucille's Mistake. Making Love in the Choir. Memory. Money Musk. Mike McGaffaty's Dog. Nancy Sykes. New Church Doctrine, The. Night after Christmas, The. "Norval." Old Knight's Treasure, The. Only a Crippled Soldier. Pat and the Pig. Pegging Away. Penn's Monument. Policeman's Story, The. Postillon of Nagold, The. Public Grindstone, The. Scene from "Leah the Forsaken." Soldiers' Monument, The. Signing the Pledge. Sun-Burst. The Three Little Chairs. Two Ways of Telling a Story. Veterans, The. War with Alcohol, The.</p>
--	---

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 13.

Apele for Are to the Sextant, A.
Art is Pitiless.
"Assorted" Declamation, An.
Auction Extraordinary.
Bob.
Candor.
Chicken Talk.
Choosing a Cow.
Christmas Ballad, A.
Cold Water.
Colored Sermon, A.
Death of Mogg Megone, The.
Death of the Dominie, The.
Death of Thomas Becket, The.
Drinking a Tear.
Eaglet and the Child, The.
Goin' to Liza's.
Gridiron, The.
How Vera Cruz was won.
"Jesus, Lover of My Soul."
Lady Yeardeley's Guest.
Little Elfin's Plea.
"Little Potter's" Story.
"Make It Four, Yer Honor."
Middlerib's Rheumatic Cure.

Mount of the Holy Cross, The.
Mr. Collins's Croquet-Set.
Old Maid's Prayer, The.
Old Twine String, The.
"O'Meara Consolidated," The.
Orphan Boy, The.
"Peace, Be Still."
Piece of Bunting, A.
Planchette.
Political Outfit, A.
Popping Corn.
Railroad-Crossing, The.
Ram for Ould Ireland, A.
Ruined Man, The.
Sacred Relics of the Past.
Sequel to the Old Maid's Prayer.
Statue Scene, The.
Story of the Swords, The.
Sunset Prophecy, A.
Ticket o' Leave.
Tipperary.
"Tom's Dead!"
Vengeance, A.
"Willie."
Wisdom of All, The.

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 14.

Advanced Thought.
African Chief, The.
American Flag, The.
Bad Boy at Breakfast, The.
Ballad of Cassandra Brown, The.
Catastrophe, A.
Caught by the Tide.
Charge by the Ford, The.
Charity: A Problem.
Clouds, The.
Confession, The.
Curfew Heroine, The.
Deacon's Prayer, The.
Dot Telephone.
Drift.
Good Wife, The.
How He Won Her.
In the Floods.
Irish Philosopher, The.
Judge's Search for a Waterfall, The.
King and the Snake, The.
Knife-Grinder, The.
Like Mother used to make.
Little Jesse James.
"Lord's Plate," The.

New-style Poem, A.
Nine Suitors, The.
Not to be Won that Way.
O'Branigan's Drill.
O'Connell as an Orator.
Old Daddy Turner.
Old Puritan Divines, The.
Oratory of Wendell Phillips.
Paddy's Excelsior.
Pat's Dream of Heaven.
Plantation Proverbs.
Prospective.
Regulus to the Roman Senate.
Rolla's Address to the Peruviana.
Roll-Call.
Scene from "Sweethearts."
Scene from "The Iron Chest."
Serious Jar, A.
Sheridan's Ride.
Society Play, A.
Soldier's Reprieve, The.
Somebody's Darling.
Unknown.
Virginia.
Why No Scotchmen go to Heaven.

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 15.

Archery of William Tell, The.	Langley Lane.
Automatic Cradle, The.	Lasca.
Baby's Soliloquy.	Modern Fiancée, A.
"Blame it all on Me."	Mother's Doughnuts.
Bridget McRae's Wedding Anniversary.	My Wife and Child.
Champion Snorer, The.	Mule and the Bees, The.
Coins of the Realm.	Mobile Bay.
Curly-head.	Napoleon Bonaparte.
Dread of Death, The.	Ninety-eight.
Elizabeth Zane.	Old Mother Hubbard, The.
Error o' Judgment, An.	Our Folks.
Fly's Cogitations, A.	Phantom Monkey, The.
Forum Scene, The.	Post Number Three.
Free Breakfast, A.	Praying for Shoes.
Gladiator, The.	Rain Prayer, The.
Harry Brandon.	Same Old Story, The.
He wasn't Ready.	Shipwreck Story, A.
His Mother's Songs.	Somebody's Pride.
Household Fairy, A.	Summer Storm.
Indignant Nellie.	Tear of Repentance, The.
In the Catacombs.	That Fire at the Nolans'.
In the Surf.	United Order of Half-shells, The.
Irish Schoolmaster, The.	Voice of the Sluggard, The.
I vash so glad I vash here!	Widow O'Shane's Rent, The.
Keenan's Charge.	"You've found Heaven first, Janet."

CONTENTS OF READING-CLUB NO. 16.

After Taps.	Lessons in Cookery.
At Arlington.	Lesson to Lovers, A.
At the Rising of the Moon.	Love Game, A.
Auntie Parson's Story.	Loves of a Life, The.
Aunt Sophronia at the Opera.	"Magdalena."
Beecher on Phillips.	Menagerie, The.
Biddy's Philosophy.	Nebulous Philosophy.
Bravest Boy in Town, The.	Never too Late.
Brer Rabbit and the Butter.	No.
Cicely and the Bears.	Old Canteen, The.
Course of True Love, The.	Old Man's Prayer, An.
Drummer's Betrothed, The.	On the Shores of Tennessee.
Dutchman's Serenade, The.	Order for a Picture, An.
Dying Words of Isaac.	Original Idea, An.
Fight with a Trout, A.	Over the Left.
Forcible Entry.	Paddy's Dream.
Grant's Strategy.	Patent Bedstead, A.
He never told a Lie.	Pat's Reason.
Howl in Rome, A.	Prisoner of War, The.
Indian Names.	Raking the Meadow Lot.
Ingomar.	Saddest Sight, The.
Jamie Douglas.	Seminole's Reply, The.
John Leland's Examination.	September Gale, The.
Laughing Philosopher, The.	Soldier's Dream, The.
Leak in the Dike, The.	Song of the Drum, The.

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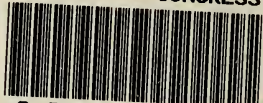
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- THE HIDDEN HAND. A Drama in 5 Acts. By Robert Jones. 16 male, 7 female char.
- HIT HIM, HE HAS NO FRIENDS. A Farce in 1 Act. By E. Yates and N. H. Harrington. 7 male, 3 female char.
- A HUSBAND TO ORDER. A Serio-comic Drama in 2 Acts. 5 male, 3 female char.
- I'VE WRITTEN TO BROWNE. A Farce in 1 Act. By F. J. Williams. 4 male, 3 female char.
- JOHN DOBBS. A Farce in 1 Act. By J. M. Morton. 5 male, 2 female char.
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- MY TURN NEXT. A Farce in 1 Act. By T. J. Williams. 4 male, 3 female char.
- NICHOLAS FLAM. A Comedy in 2 Acts. By J. B. Buckstone. 5 male, 3 female char.
- NONE SO DEAF AS THOSE WHO WON'T HEAR. A Comedietta in 1 Act. By H. P. Curtis. 2 male, 2 female char.
- NURSEY CHICKWEED. A Farce in 1 Act. By T. J. Williams. 4 male, 2 female char.
- OLD HONESTY. A Comic Drama in 2 Acts. By J. M. Morton. 5 male, 2 female char.
- ONLY A CLOD. A Comic Drama in 1 Act. By J. P. Simpson. 4 male, 1 female char.
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- SARAH'S YOUNG MAN. A Farce in 1 Act. By W. E. Suter. 3 male, 3 female char.
- THE SCARLET LETTER. A Drama in 3 Acts. 8 male, 7 female char.
- SILVERSTONE'S WAGER. A Comedietta in 1 Act. By R. R. Andrews. 4 male, 3 female.
- A SLICE OF LUCK. A Farce in 1 Act. By J. M. Morton. 4 male, 2 female char.
- SMASHINGTON GOIT. A Farce in 1 Act. By T. J. Williams. 5 male, 3 female char.
- A SOLDIER, A SAILOR, A TINKER, and a Tailor. A Farce in 1 Act. 4 male, 2 female.
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